

**MINUTES**  
**BALTIMORE COUNTY *Linking Communities to the Montreal Process***  
***Criteria and Indicators* PROJECT**

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 4, 2003**  
**Sherwood House, Cromwell Valley Park**

**Attending:**

Jo Owen and Michael DeFilippi (Watershed Protection Coalition); Mel Noland and Lucy Wright (County Forestry Board); Richard Pouyat (US Forest Service); Rob Prenger (DNR); Bill Stack and Christine Duce (Baltimore City DPW); Pat Cornman, Rob Hirsch, Bret Sage and Don Outen (Baltimore County DEPRM).

**Welcome and Agenda Review:**

Don Outen welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 10:10, and attendees introduced themselves.

**Review of Minutes from Last Steering Committee Meeting:**

The draft minutes from the September 2 meeting were corrected to note that Mike DeFilippi was actually not present.

**Announcements:**

Don commented that there is an opportunity to consider any projects for the upcoming budget that would support the Montreal Process project. The group continued its discussion from the previous meeting about getting a cost estimate for conducting a forest health and ecological assessment of some major County forest holdings, such as Oregon Ridge Park. Pat Cornman will work with Rob Prenger and others to develop a cost estimate and project description for this study.

Mel Noland commented on the need for an educational “demonstration” forest to show how sustainable forestry practices really work. It would have to be examined in more detail to determine if Oregon Ridge would be an appropriate location for this.

Don also commented that we have requested more detailed information from DNR about the GIS methods used to prepare the Strategic Forest Lands Assessment. He has been in contact with John Wolf, who agreed to provide information. DEPRM is interested in replicating some of the DNR mapping using local data at a larger scale (small areas).

**Discussion:**

The bulk of the meeting centered on a presentation by Christine Duce, of Baltimore City DPW's Reservoir Natural Resources unit, on the Comprehensive Forest Conservation Plan prepared by DNR. Copies of the Plan are available on CD by calling the City at 410-795-6151. Christine reported that the study found a very low rate of regeneration in the reservoir properties, due to heavy deer browsing and a dense forest canopy. Deer have been estimated at 120-140 per square mile, compared to a “healthy” density of 10-20 per square mile. Rich Pouyat also explained that these forests are still aggrading and haven't matured to the point where natural gaps allow for oak regeneration. The DNR's recommendation to the City includes deer control and a small number of 1-acre shelterwood cuts to stimulate regeneration. DNR also identified

about 2,466 acres of “interior” forest, including areas of steep and erodible soils, where the recommended management approach is “natural” management or no active human management. Rich provided information about reservoir watershed management in New York and elsewhere in the northeast, and commented on a general problem with oak regeneration due in part to fire suppression. Studies there indicate that some forests are evolving to maple dominance, with implications for water quality as maple leaves may generate more nitrates.

Time ran out (again!) to continue the discussion of preparation of the Issues Paper. An updated version of the Vision statements received to date was distributed. Don commented that this should be the focus of the next meeting.

**Action Items:**

1. The Committee will forward any requests for budget items related to the Project.
2. The Committee will continue to think about the outline for the Issues Paper for the next meeting, and DEPRM will prepare a draft outline.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Steering Committee meeting was announced for Tuesday, December 2, from 10:00 to 12:00, at the Sherwood House at the County’s Cromwell Valley Park.

Directions: Exit Baltimore Beltway (Exit 29) at Cromwell Bridge Road. Proceed east on Cromwell Bridge Road and turn left about 1 mile into the Park entrance. Proceed down the drive, cross the stream and take the right fork of the road after the bridge. Continue on the loop road in front of the Sherwood House and park in the gravel lot on the east side of the house.

**Adjournment:**

The attendees were thanked for participating, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.